

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-3. (CANCELED)

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for determining whether a connection is closed between a local node and a plurality of remote nodes ~~remote node~~, the method comprising;
- transmitting a unique address from the local node, through the connection, to at least one of the remote nodes ~~the remote node~~;
- changing the impedance of the at least one of the remote nodes ~~remote node~~ in response to said unique address being received at the at least one of the remote nodes ~~remote node~~;
- sensing the impedance change of the at least one of the remote nodes ~~remote node~~ and determining therefrom that the connection is closed.
5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 4 further comprising sensing an open impedance of the at least one of the remote nodes ~~remote node~~ and determining therefrom that the connection is open.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 4 5 wherein said unique address is comprised of n -bits.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 4 6 wherein said step of transmitting said unique address occurs when the connection is free from other communication.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 4 7 wherein said step of determining the connection is closed further comprises a comparison between a voltage of the local node and a reference voltage.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 4 8 wherein said step of determining the connection is open further comprises a comparison between said voltage of the local node and said reference voltage.

10-12. (CANCELED)